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Spring, which made a furtive effort in mid-March, is now here in a hurry. In fact, the temperature today (April 20) is more that of summer than of Spring. On March 8 the Chinese Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis mollis*) and the Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) were in flower; on the tenth the Japanese Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis japonica*) opened its blossoms; on the twelfth pretty *Erica carnea* was crowded with pink bells; on the fifteenth *Ribes cereum* was in open leaf and blossoms on the north China Peach (*Prunus Davidiana*) were showing color. There was every prospect of a very early season but the weather changed and Spring was deferred another month.

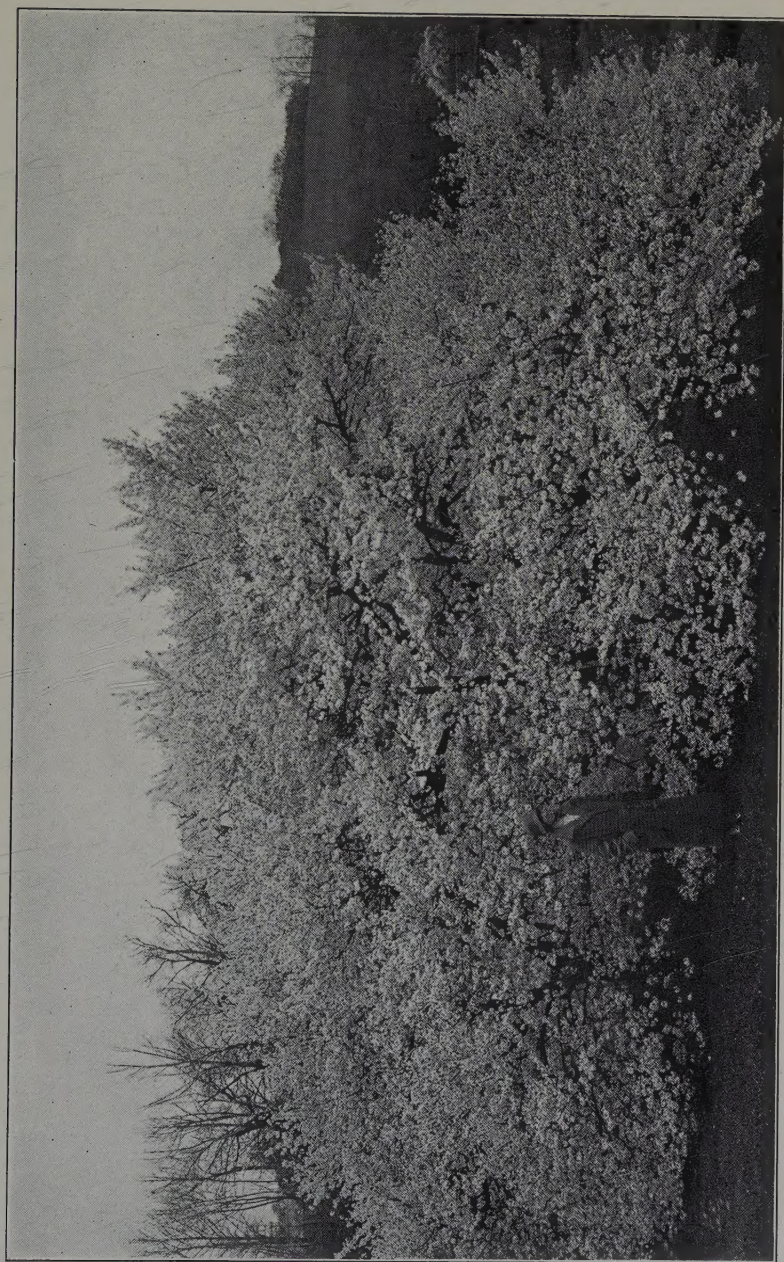
Winter effects. The winter has seemed unusually long, snow fell the first week in December and lay on the ground until March. During December there were several heavy falls of snow but the other winter months were marked by only moderate snowfalls. No extremely low temperatures were recorded in the Arboretum and frost did not penetrate any great depth into the ground. So far as the soil itself fared it is many years since the ground was workable so early. Although long, the winter has been decidedly mild and the trees and shrubs in the Arboretum have suffered little or no damage. A few Carolina Hemlocks and the Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus Thunbergii*) got scorched. The Cedars of Lebanon on Bussey Hill, the Rhododendrons, Kalmias and other broad-leaved evergreens came through in splendid condition. The Azaleas, Crabapples, Cherries and other deciduous trees and shrubs give promise of plenteous blossom. There will, however, be no Lilac display this year. Owing to impoverished conditions it has been necessary to prune the Lilac bushes severely and liberally fertilize the soil. By this treatment and allowing them a year in which to recuperate there should be a fine display in 1928. For the public's sake it is a pity that the Lilacs had to be given a year's grace but there is a limit to the endurance of even the good natured Lilac.

Prunus Davidiana. The forcing effects of the warm weather in early March threatened danger to early flowering plants but ap-

parently no real harm was done. Both the white and pink forms of *Prunus Davidiana* opened their blossoms early in April only to be destroyed by frost. This tree is too precocious for these latitudes. It rarely happens that a Spring passes without its flowers being partially or wholly destroyed. Where the climate is less changeable it should be a valuable early flowering tree. In the Middle West as a stock on which to graft Peaches it is well appreciated but it ought to be grown widely as an ornamental.

Apricots. For the climate of Massachusetts the Manchurian Apricot (*Prunus mandshurica*) is likely to prove a first-class Spring flowering tree. During the last week-end a tree on the right hand side of Meadow Road, on the edge of Robina group, has been a beautiful picture. About 20 feet tall, with a flattened, irregular crown spreading full 25 feet, every branch of the tree was studded with deep pink flower buds which as they opened became pale colored. We noticed that bees were particularly busy and on Sunday last the tree was alive with them. This Apricot is native of Korea and Manchuria, where it grows some 30 feet tall and has a short massive trunk covered with thick corky bark which shows red beneath the surface. It has been growing in the Arnold Arboretum since 1906 but this year has flowered much more profusely than ever before. At the moment the Siberian Apricot (*Prunus sibirica*) is a mass of white and, so too, is a Japanese form of the Common Apricot (*P. armeniaca*) known as *mikado*. These three Apricots are well worth the attention of tree-lovers and nurserymen. They are suited for planting on lawns and near houses; also they would be valuable for town gardens and small parks in the heart of cities.

Forsythias. The bank of Forsythias by the Lilac collection is now strung with yellow bells and in a day or two will be a blaze of rich yellow. These Oriental shrubs are everywhere great favorites but it is regrettable that their care, especially the matter of pruning, is so little understood. As one sees them in gardens generally they are shorn of beauty through ignorant pruning. If people would only cut them immediately after their flowering is passed they would have graceful bushes hugging the ground instead of the broom-like masses one so frequently sees. It cannot be too often stated that all shrubs which flower on the past season's growth should be pruned immediately after flowering and thus be given a long season for making and ripening new flowering wood. All the Forsythias are good. The best is, undoubtedly, *F. intermedia spectabilis*, which has larger and richer yellow blossoms than the others. Massachusetts is about the northern limit of the Chinese Forsythias and their hybrids. The Korean species (*F. ovata*) with small pale yellow flowers is much the hardiest and although the flowers are smaller and the color not so deep it promises to be a valuable shrub for northern New England and even the valley of the St. Lawrence. It is native of the Diamond Mountains in north-central Korea and was introduced into the Arnold Arboretum by Wilson in 1917. As a screen for draping walls and large boulders the old *F. suspensa* with its long, whip-like branches is still the best.



The Japanese Spring Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*)

Japanese Cherries. By the time this bulletin reaches its readers the Japanese single-flowered Cherries will be at the height of their glory. The two round-topped shrub-like trees of the Spring Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*) on the right within the Forest Hills Gate are bearing their usual luxuriant crop of blossoms which are deep pink in the bud becoming paler as they open and almost white when full blown. This splendid tree is not surpassed in beauty by any Spring flowering tree. Unfortunately, being a garden type of a larger much less free-blooming tree known as *Prunus subhirtella ascendens*, the Spring Cherry does not come true from seeds. It must be propagated by budding or grafting on seedlings of the parent stock. It can be rooted from cuttings but these seem difficult to establish and especially to transplant. The Rosebud Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella pendula*) is well-known although one rarely sees a real good specimen. This also should be grafted or budded on its wild parent (*Prunus subhirtella ascendens*). A small percentage will come true from seeds, so by sowing a large quantity of seeds, selecting and training, it should be possible to get large specimens of the Rosebud Cherry on its own roots. A small tree of the semi-double so-called Autumn-flowering Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella autumnalis*) is carrying a fine crop of blossoms on the right within the Forest Hills Gate. This is a precocious tree of small size perhaps best described as a bush with ascending, spreading, twiggy branches and semi-double pink blossoms produced either in October or in the Spring. Like all its family it is worth a place in every garden. The Mount Fuji Cherry (*Prunus incisa*) is again covered with pure white, yellow-anthered blossoms. As the petals fall the calyx becomes reddish and finally crimson adding beauty to the plant for several days. The Sargent Cherry (*Prunus serrulata sachalinensis*) is opening its rich pink fading to white blossoms and promises as fine a display as usual. This, the largest and hardiest of all the Japanese Cherries, ought to be planted as an avenue tree and as a specimen on lawns and in parks. Being surface-rooting Cherries are good for shallow soils and blossoming early they are splendid for city parks. The Tokyo Cherry (*Prunus yedoensis*) is also in bloom. Although less hardy than the Sargent Cherry this is a very rapid growing tree with a wide-spreading dome-shaped crown. It is this Tokyo Cherry that makes the display on the banks of the Potomac in Washington, D. C. We are almost on its northern limits here but from Long Island south it ought to be planted as an avenue tree or as a single specimen in great quantities. Its white flushed with pink flowers are borne in the utmost profusion although, as a matter of fact, this applies to all the Cherries of the Orient.

E. H. W.

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